

NEWS RELEASE

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Another Springfield Man Admits to Multi-Kilo Cocaine Distribution Conspiracy

Springfield, IL – Earl V. Sidener, age 27, of 1133 North Virginia, Springfield, Illinois, pled guilty today to participating in a conspiracy to distribute more than five kilograms of powder cocaine in the Springfield area from January 2004 to October 2005, as announced by Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois. Sidener pled guilty to the three offenses charged by a federal grand jury on November 17, 2005: conspiracy to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine (one count); attempted possession with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine (one count); and use of a telephone to facilitate a drug offense (one count.)

During a hearing this afternoon before U.S. Magistrate Judge Byron G. Cudmore, Earl V. Sidener admitted obtaining an ongoing supply of cocaine, in repeated half and quarter-kilogram amounts over a period of years, from Danny Sidener, Jr. Earl Sidener obtained the cocaine from Danny Sidener on a “front” or consignment basis. Earl admitted storing the cocaine at his home or at rental storage facilities and selling it to others for further distribution. Earl Sidener admitted using a telephone at least twice on October 28, 2005, to speak with Danny Sidener to make final arrangements for the proposed delivery of 500 grams or more of cocaine from Danny Sidener to Earl at Earl Sidener’s home.

Sentencing is scheduled for January 8, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. Earl Sidener remains on bond pending sentencing. The statutory mandatory minimum penalty for conspiring to distribute five or more kilograms of cocaine is 10 years to life in prison. The penalty for attempted possession with intent to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine is a minimum of five years to 40 years in prison. For using a telephone to facilitate a drug offense, the penalty is no more than four years in prison.

The charges are the result of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Springfield Police Department, the Illinois State Police and the Central Illinois Enforcement Group. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John E. Childress.

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